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(56) Documents Cited
US 5330177 A US 5205598 A US 4951947 A
US 4589661 A US 4313604 A

(58) Field of Search
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(71) Applicant(s)
Linton Washington Whyte
6 Trevisa Grove, Brentry, BRISTOL, Avon, BS10 6QU, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)
Linton Washington Whyte

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
Linton Washington Whyte
6 Trevisa Grove, Brentry, BRISTOL, Avon, BS10 6QU, United Kingdom

(54) Golfing aid

(57) A golfing aid which may be used to place and retrieve balls C, tees P and markers and which also may be used to hold a pitch mark repairer to save the user from bending comprises a pair of jaws A, B which are urged towards the open position by a spring G and are closed by a trigger arrangement (not shown) to pull on a wire F against the action of the spring. The jaws U are shaped to accomodate each of the items it is required to locate.

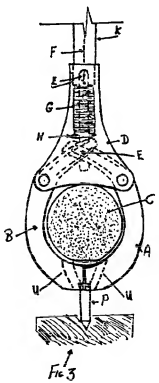

Fig 3

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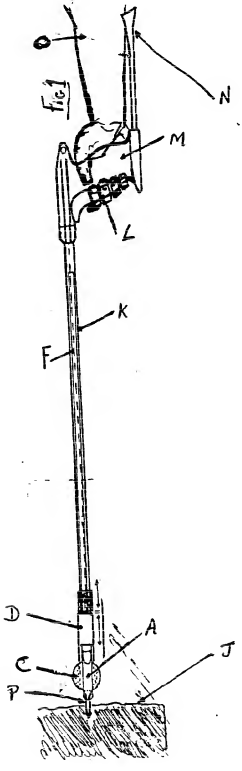
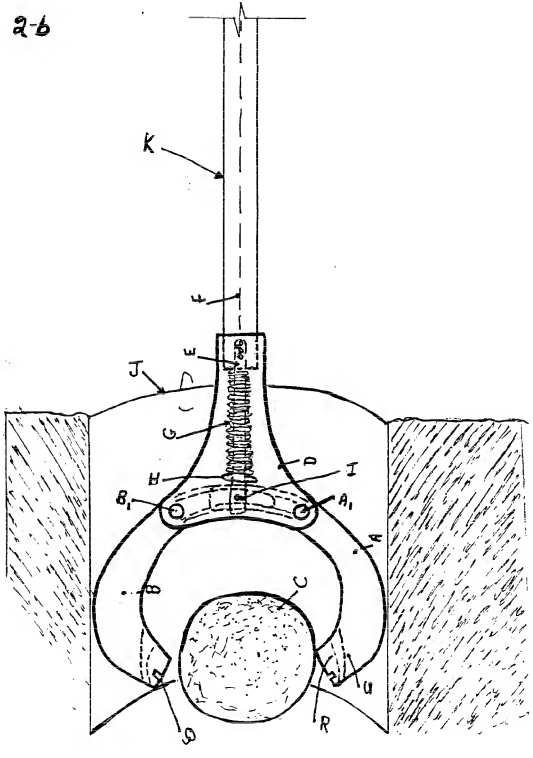


Fig 1

2-b

Fig 2



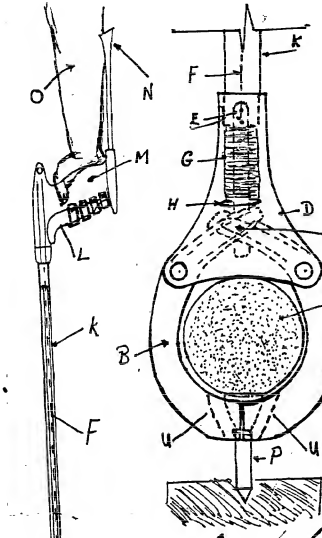


Fig 1B

Fig 3

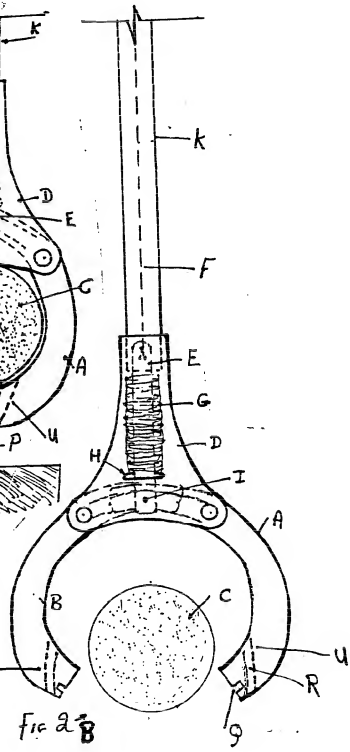


Fig 2B

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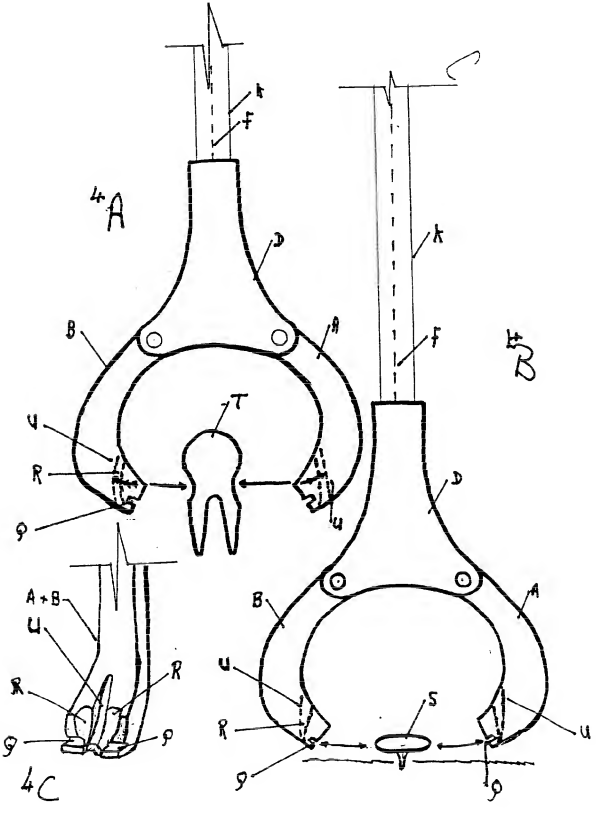

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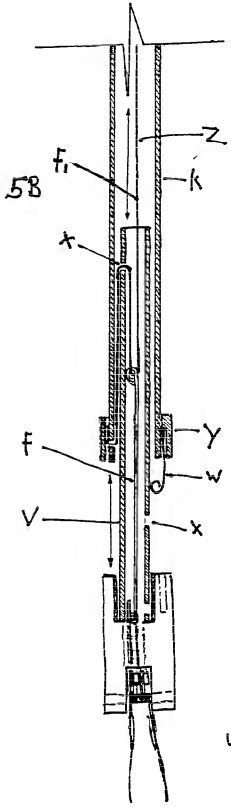

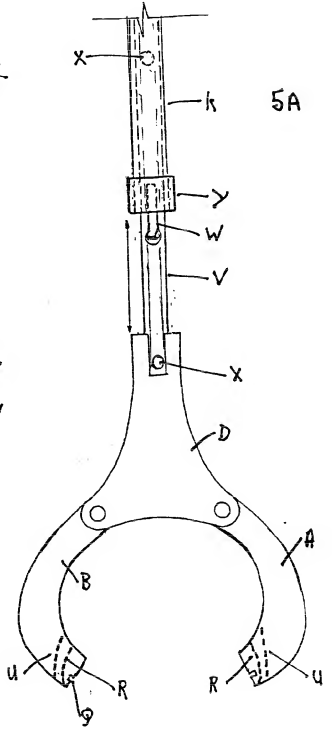

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GOLF-MATE

Background of the Invention

A number of devises have been proposed to assist golfers to position a ball & tee without the need to bend down. Their main claim being that of a golf ball and tee setter.

The present invention is a Golf Mate and not simply a teeing unit or tee setter. It is an innovative mulit-functional and ergonomically designed piece of golfing equipment designed to perform a number of tasks.

The Golf Mate will not only set & retrieve the ball and tee in the required position in the firmest of grounds with ease of use and balance. It will hold and place the ball marker and retrieve the ball on the green, it will hold the repair fork for repairing the green, remove the ball from the hole, it has a telescopic feature which enables it to almost double in length enabling the golfer to reach and retrieve the ball from previously inaccessible and difficult to reach areas such as hedgerows. ditches, and streams.

DESCRIPTION

Brief Description of Drawings

Fig 1 Shows the Golf Mate with the balancing arm held against the forearm with fingers around the ergonomically designed grip, with the trigger depressed by the fingers holding the ball and tee in position and driving into the ground.

Fig 2 Shows the Golf Mate jaws in the open position prior to closing around the ball in the hole.

Fig 3 Shows fig 1,2 & 3 Fig 3 the closed position with the ball and tee in place.

Fig 4 Shows the positioning of the ball marker and fork prior to being held by the unique design locators in the jaws of the Golf Mate. 4C shows the end view of one of the jaws showing with Q the ball marker location slot, R the tee cup section and U the fork locator. Both jaws A & B containing identical locators Q,R & U.

Fig 5 Shows the telescopic and locking feature of the Golf Mate.

Fig 6 Shows the grip with closing and releasing mechanism, along with the position of the balance arm unit with their locking clips.

Detailed Description of Invention

The present invention provides a multi-purpose Golf Mate enabling a golfer to perform all tasks which previously required bending down.

Fig 1 Shows the Golf Mate in positioning the ball C & tee P into the ground J with the jaws A & B fig3 closed holding both securely, by the fingers squeezing the trigger L on the grip M. Whilst the Golf Mate is kept balanced and straight by the balance arm N against the forearm O, giving perfect balance and ease of operation. By pressing down with the forearm P pressure is transfered via the grip M along the shaft K to D the jaw locators to the ball C to the tee P pushing P into the ground to the required depth. Release the grip on the trigger L this automatically releases the jaws A & B fig3 via the spring G being decompressed and releasing the ball C & tee P. Lifting the Golf Mate slightly off the ball then with a slight forward or backward swing of the Golf Mate will clear the ball & tee and leave both in place.

Detailed Discription Continued

Fig 2 Shows the jaws A & B in the open position over the ball C in the hole J, both jaws A & B are kept in the open position by the spring G exerting pressure on the washer H, the jaws are held in place by the housing D via locators A1 & B1, the ends of A & B within the housing D have a rod E passing through them secured as showen by Pin L. By exerting and releasing pressure on the trigger L fig 1 causing the the spring G to compress and decompress this action give the open and closed position of the jaws A & B as in Fig 3 & Fig 2B.

Fig 3 Shows fig 1b & fig 2b in close association.

Fig 4 Shows 4A with the location for the fork, 4B shows the location of the ball marker and 4C shows the end view of jaws A & B both of which are identical with Q being being the ball marker locator, R the location cup for the tee and U locator for the fork.

Fig 5 A & B Shows the telescopic capability of the Golf Mate, the outer sleeve K has an inner arm U which slides freely inside K, with K having on its end an outer securing sleeve Y holding in place a spring clip W which acts as a locking device by slipping into holes X placed along the inner arm V to lock V at various telescopic positions as required. the clip W will release by a forward or backward pull/push whilst holding D with one hand and K with the other. The jaws A & B are free to open and close as previously described in any of the telescopic positions by the ingenious and unique facility of F & F1.

The rod F secured to E fig3 & 2B extends through V stopping short of the end a wire F1 is then passed through a loop in the end of F, one end of which is passed through the hole X in V looping downwards along the channel between K & V passing through a hole short of the end of K loping back and secured by Y. The other end of F1 passes through K to the trigger L as in fig6.

Fig 6 Shows a sectional view of the grip M along with the trigger L with the locking clip M1, also the balance arm N with its location slot M2 and locking clip N1 both fit in place as showen in M3.

Claims

1
A multi-purpose Golf Mate comprising a unit incorporating the facility for use as a golf ball and tee placement and retrieval unit, a ball marker placement unit, a repair fork holding unit and a telescopic facility for reaching and retrieving an akwardly placed ball. The Golf Mate incorporates all these facilities in one single unit, it will place and retrieve all above mentioned items.

2
A Golf Mate unit having an upper ergonomically designed and moulded hand grip with integral trigger mechanism, having a balance arm extending from the lower back portion of the said grip this balance arm then extends up the forearm to provide balance and stability and ease of use. the upper front of the grip having having a tubular extrusion with a second but narrower extrusion which is free to slide inside the outer section. The inner extrusion having on its lower end a moulded housing unit secured to it, this unit houses the two opposed jaws of the Golf Mate. The jaws being secured to the unit vie pivot pins eye and socket the

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said jaws are free once in place via the pins to move freely within the the housing unit. the upper end of the jaws are within the housing having their ends slotted and groved to fit within each other then having a rod passing through the slotted ends, the jaws are secured to this rod via a pin passing through it. a washer is placed over the rod sliding to rest on the top end of the jaws within the housing a spring is the slid over the rod to rest on the washer, the upper end of the rod having a hole through which is secured one end of a wire/rope or string, this passes through the inner inner extrusion and ends connected to the trigger mechanism. By squessing the trigger the wire/rope or string is tensioned causing the spring at the opposite end to compress causing the jaws to close holding in place the chosen item, releasing the trigger causes the opposite effect thus releasing the jaws to the open position and freeing the enclosed item within.

4
The said unit having a telescopic facility whereby it can bee extended or reduced in length by by having the internal extrusion pulled out or pushed into the external extrusion to the required length.

5
A unit according to claims 1 having a spring loaded retractable internal wire/rope or string mechanism within the grip/trigger mechanism. Allowing for changes alterations and modifications which are obvious to the unit.

The Patent Office

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Application No: GB 9421417.8
Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: David Whitfield
Date of search: 1 November 1995

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.N): A6D D11D D11X

Int Cl (Ed.6): A63B 57/00

Other:

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
X	US5330177	(ROGGE) (WHOLE DOCUMENT)	1-5
"	US5205598	(MILLER) (" ")	"
"	US4951947	(KOPFLE) (" ")	"
"	US4589661	(ATTIG) (" ")	"
"	US4313604	(BAXTER) (" ")	"

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.